

REMARKS

In a telephone conversation on March 30, 2004, Applicants indicated that they were going to file additional claims based on the previously pending claims. Accordingly, entry of the new claims 16-18 is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits of this patent application. By this paper, claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 16-18 are added herein. Independent claim 16 is based on pending claim 1, except that the "situated substantially perpendicular to the web portion and the outer faces of said edge portions are" language of claim 1 has been removed. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17 and 18 are patentably distinct from the cited art of record for at least similar reasons to those discussed in the February 26, 2004 Amendment and Response.

Serial No. 10/033,221
Paper dated March 30, 2004
Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

Docket No. 4072-4000US1


CONCLUSION

This application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO.13-4500, ORDER NO. 4072-4000US1

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: 
Daniel C. Sheridan
Registration No. 53,585

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
(212) 758-4800 (telephone)
(212) 751-6849 (facsimile)